

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091101
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

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APPROVED BY:IO/SA:TBROWN

S/S-O: DROBINSON

-----065129 082355Z /64

P 082330Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 091101

EXDIS-FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 1957 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN
CAIRO DAMASCUS JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK
APRIL 7.

QUOTE: S E C R E T BEIRUT 1957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO LE IS UN MOPS

SUBJ: SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 1918

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON APRIL 6, RELIABLE
UN OFFICER JUST RETURNED FROM MARJAYUN AND BINT JBAIL
AREAS SAID THE FOLLOWING:

2. UN OFFICERS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT NEITHER ERSKINE
NOR SIILASVUO WERE PULLING THEIR WEIGHT IN LEBANON.

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THEY WERE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION, SPENT
ALMOST NO TIME IN THE COUNTRY, AND GAVE NO DIRECTION
FROM THE TOP.

3. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL IN EITHER MARJAYUN OR BINT JBAIL AREAS,
ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS WERE ROTATING TROOPS. (ILMAC

CHAIRMAN ESPINASSY ON APRIL 5 ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. SEE REFTTEL). THE ISRAELIS WERE DIGGING IN AND BUILDING NUMEROUS NEW ROADS INTO SOUTH LEBANON. IDF BATTERIES NEAR AL KHIYAM FIRED AT LEAST TWENTY ROUNDS NORTH ON THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF APRIL 4.

4. DURING MARCH INVASION, IDF CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE IN FOLLOWING TOWNS WHICH WERE VIRTUALLY UNSCATHED BEFORE INCURSION.

MARUN AR RA'S; (ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED)

GHANDURIYAH; (ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED)

QANTARAH.

IDF HAD ALSO CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO FOLLOWING CITIES, IN ADDITION TO DAMAGE THEY HAD SUFFERED BEFORE THE INVASION:

AT TAYYIBAH;

MARKABA;

AL KHIYAM.
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5. CHRISTIAN MILITIA WERE DOING NOTHING MILITARILY. SA'D HADDAD WAS TRYING TO RECRUIT MEN FOR HIS ARMY OF THE SOUTH, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE HIS SUCCESS SO FAR. HADDAD PROBABLY COMMANDED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 500 AND 1,000 MEN. KIBBUTZNIKS WERE NOW MAKING TOURIST TRIPS INTO SOUTH LEBANON. THEY OFTEN CARRIED AWAY GOODS FROM ABANDONED VILLAGES.

6. CHRISTIANS ROUTINELY MOVED THEIR TANKS TO ISRAEL FOR REPAIR. ON APRIL 4 SOURCE SAW THREE CHRISTIAN TANKS OF FRENCH MANUFACTURE NEAR AL KHIRBAH AND A CHRISTIAN SUPER SHERMAN TANK JUST INSIDE ISRAELI BORDER AT METULLA. ON APRIL 5 SOURCE SAW TWO CHRISTIAN SUPER SHERMAN TANKS NEAR BINT JBAIL.

7. ALMOST ALL ILMAC OFFICERS WERE NOW PERFORMING UNIFIL FUNCTIONS. SOURCE SAID THE LEBANESE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS OFFENDED BY THIS DE-FACTO DISMANTLING OF ILMAC WITHOUT CONSULTING GOL. LEBANESE REPORTEDLY SENT LIAISON OFFICER TO NAQURA, BUT SOURCE SAID THAT OFFICER WAS NOWHERE IN EVIDENCE ON APRIL 6. IN ANY

EVENT, A STAFF, NOT ONE MAN, WAS NEEDED TO DO THE JOB.
PARKER UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE091101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:JLORENZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780153-0297
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780477/aaaacnham.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ea7aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 1918
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3027761
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: MOPS, LE, IS, PLO, UN
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ea7aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014